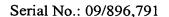
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## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

## The following changes have been made to the claims:

- 1. (original) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from:
- (a) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (b) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing, under stringent hybridization conditions, to a nucleotide sequence complementary the polypeptide coding region of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in (a) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof; and
- (c) nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) or (b) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof.
- 2. An isolated mammalian IPAS polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1
- (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is capable of hybridizing, under stringent hybridization conditions, with a nucleotide sequence complementary to the polypeptide-coding region of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in (a), and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof; and
- (c) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) or (b) and which codes for a biologically active mammalian IPAS polypeptide or a functionally equivalent modified form thereof.



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3. (original) The isolated mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 having an amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 3 in the Sequence Listing

- 4. (original) A vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.
- 5. (original) A replicable expression vector, which carries and is capable of mediating the expression of a nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.
- 6. (previously amended) A cultured host cell harboring a vector according to claim 4.
- 7. (original) A process for production of a mammalian IPAS polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 6 under conditions whereby said polypeptide is produced, and recovering said polypeptide.
- 8. (original) A method for identifying an agent useful for activating the expression of a mammalian IPAS nucleic acid molecule, said method comprising the steps
- (i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS nucleotide acid molecule according to claim 1; and
- (ii) determining whether said candidate agent activates the expression of the said mammalian IPAS nucleic acid molecule.
- 9. (original) A method for identifying an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth, said method comprising the steps
- (i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS nucleotide acid molecule according to claim 1; and
- (ii) determining whether said candidate agent activates the expression of the mammalian IPAS nucleotide sequence, such activation being indicative for an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth.
- 10. (previously amended) A method for identifying an agent useful for stimulating the biological activities of a mammalian IPAS polypeptide, said method comprising the steps



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(i) contacting a candidate agent with the mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2; and

- (ii) determining whether said candidate agent stimulates the biological activities of the said polypeptide.
- 11. (previously amended) A method for identifying an agent useful for the inhibition of angiogenesis and/or tumor growth, said method comprising the steps
- (i) contacting a candidate agent with a mammalian IPAS polypeptide according to claim 2 or 3; and
- (ii) determining whether said candidate agent stimulates the biological activities of the said polypeptide, such stimulation being indicative for an agent useful for the treatment of a medical condition related to angiogenesis and/or tumor growth.

## 12. (cancelled)

- 13. (previously amended) A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to claim 8.
- 14. (previously amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.
- 15. (previously added) A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to claim 9.
- 16. (previously added) A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to claim 10.
- 17. (previously added) A method for the treatment of angiogenic disease or tumor growth, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of an agent identified by the method according to claim 11.

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18. (previously added) A cultured host cell harboring a vector according to claim 5.

- 19. (previously added) The use or method according to claim 15, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.
- 20. (previously added) The use or method according to claim 16, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.
- 21. (previously added) The use or method according to claim 17, wherein said angiogenic disease is related to ischemic cardiovascular lesions, stroke, or diabetic microvascular diseases.